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Remarks

The Official Action dated September 24, 2001 has been carefully considered. It is believed that the amended claims submitted herewith and the following comments represent a complete response to the Examiner's rejections and place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

37 CFR 1.821(d)

The Examiner has objected to the specification because it recites amino acid sequences without a proper sequence identifier. In response, the brief description of Figures 6 and 7 has been amended in order to insert the sequence identifiers.

35 U.S.C §112

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 3 and 17 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one of skill in the art that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention.

Without agreeing with the Examiner, Applicant has amended claim 2 in order to specify that the Fgl2 inhibitor is either an antibody that binds Fgl2 or an antisense oligonucleotide to Fgl2. This amendment has been made without prejudice and the Applicants reserve the right to pursue any of the deleted subject matter in a further divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application. As the application provides clear support for the preparation of antisense oligonucleotides or antibodies to Fgl2, we submit that the scope of the claims is supported in the disclosure.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In view of the foregoing, we respectfully submit that the application is in order for allowance and early indication of that effect is respectfully requested. Should the

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Examiner deem it beneficial to discuss the application in greater detail, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at (416) 957-1682 at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Specification:

The paragraphs at page 5, line 4 to line 6 have been replaced with the following rewritten paragraphs:

—Figure 6 is the amino acid sequence of the mouse (SEQ.ID.NO.4) and human (SEQ.ID.NO.2) Fgl2 proteins, with the 5 glycosylation sites underlined;

Figure 7 shows the predicted secondary structure of the hFgl2 protein (SEQ.ID.NO.2);—

In the Claims:

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Twice Amended) A method of preventing or reducing fetal loss comprising administering an effective amount of an inhibitor of Fgl2 to an animal in need thereof, wherein the inhibitor is an antibody that binds to Fgl2 or an antisense oligonucleotide to Fgl2.